A VENDOR displays a variety of decoration frames on the Northern Bypass, Peshawar, to attract customers. — PPI

27th Amendment to destroy democracy, says CM

Afridi says only tribesmen feel 'pain' of military offensives

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Mohammad Sohail Afridi said here on Sunday that 27th Amendment, to be passed by those having only 17 seats in National Assembly, flattened democracy and the Constitution.

He was talking to journalists at Karkhano station of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). He said that not a single army general was sentenced in the country. He added that if a general was sentenced, the verdict was not implemented.

He said that some powerful people had already crushed the Constitution and that there was no need for constitutional amendments.

"The powerful, who committed tyranny with the country, the Constitution, judiciary and media, never required any constitutional amendment," he added.

Mr Afridi said that his leader had always been against military operations. He said that only tribesmen knew the pain of military offensives. He added that some people considered themselves above the law.

"What I want is decisions should not be made behind closed doors," he said, adding some people started his character assassination the day he was nominated for the office of chief minister.

The chief minister said that BRT was a gift of PTI founder Imran Khan for middle class. He said that the purpose of his visit was to directly meet people and listen to them. He said that the service was the best but was overcrowded.

He said that more buses were being added to reduce the burden. He announced to extend the service to Bara and Jamrud tehsils of Khyber tribal district.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued from Chief Minister's Secretariat, he said that the purpose of his travelling by BRT was to personally assess the service. "I desired to experience the BRT journey personally, receive direct feedback from people and use that feedback to further improve the service," he said.

In response to a question, the chief minister announced that 'peace jirga' would be held on November 12 to find a permanent solution to terrorism. Parliamentarians, former lawmakers and leaders of political parties would be invited to the jirga to chalk out a path toward permanent peace and stability, he added.

In another statement issued from his office, Mr Afrdi said that effective use of modern technology and digitisation would ensure efficiency, transparency and eliminate unnecessary human interference and favouritism.

Chairing a meeting about matters related to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Service Commission (KPPSC), he said that provincial government was implementing reforms to promote merit, transparency and digital governance.

He directed establishment and administration department and KPPSC to ensure announcement of vacant posts of provincial management service (PMS) by January 2026.

He said that that homework for advertising new posts should be initiated immediately. He directed concerned officials to initiate digitisation of all processes and examinations conducted under KPPSC.

The chief minister said that government would meet the requirements of PSC on a priority basis for the convenience of people and would increase investment to further strengthen and enhance KPPSC's capacity.

He said that the recruitment process under the commission should be expedited and be made entirely on merit by adopting new policies while at the same time he directed concerned officials to increase the number of daily interviews conducted by the commission.

Participants of the meeting gave a detailed briefing on the functions, performance, and challenges of KPPSC.

It was informed that from 2022 to October 2025, a total of 25 advertisements were floated for recruitment in various provincial departments under the commission, offering 6,917 posts.

During this period, 434 ability tests and 17 competitive examinations were conducted while recommendations were made for recruitment of 6,286 candidates. The meeting was also attended by ministers Meena Khan Afridi and Aftab Alam and the chief minister's aide on finance, Muzammil Aslam, administrative secretaries of relevant departments and KPPSC chairman.

Tribal elders assure support for region's stability

By Our Correspondent

KOHAT: The district administrations of Kurram and Orakzai have emphasised that peace and stability are vital for development, urging tribesmen's continued cooperation with the administration, police and security forces against terroristsfor restoration oflasting normalcy.

The tribal elders had given assurance of their unflinching support for stability in the region to secure the future of coming generations, according to a statement issued here.

In Orakzai, deputy commissioner, Muhammad Irfanuddin vowed to continue the "Open Door Policy" initiative, meeting with tribal elders, publicrepresentatives and citizens from across the district.

He reiterated that the district administration's priority was transparency, accessibility and timely public service delivery, adding that direct engagement with citizens was essential for the promotion of good governance.

He declared tribesmen animportant asset as guardiansof the borders.The participants shared their concerns regarding education, healthcare, road rehabilitation, water supply, employment and law and order.

The DC instructed the departments concerned toensure prompt resolution of public complaints.

In lower Kurram, deputy commissioner Ashfaq Khan held an open court(Khuli Kutcheri) at Chappri to directly interact with the public to address local grievances.

The efforts, aimed at resolving citizens' issues at their doorstep andstrengthening transparent governance, had beenintensified, he claimed.

The session wasattended by the additional deputy commissioner (general) Amir Nawaz, assistant commissioner,lower Kurram Asmatullah, SP operations, Jahanzeb, wing commander 136 wing and officials from various linedepartments, tribal elders and representatives of Zaimusht, Turi Zai, Khwaidadkhel, Khapinga and Bangash tribes werealso present.

The residents raised issues related to education, health, drinking water, irrigation, sports and rehabilitation.

The DC resolved most matters on the spotand referred others to relevant departments with specific deadlines.

He added that several development schemes in Zaimusht areas were already progressing to improve access to basic facilities.

PPP reorganisation in Hazara focuses on leadership role for women

By Our Correspondent

MANSEHRA: Pakistan Peoples Party on Sunday began re-organising its divisional, district and tehsil chapters across Hazara division to include women in leadership roles.

"We have reorganised our divisional chapter and appointed a woman as senior vice-president. The same model will now be followed at the district and tehsil levels in eight districts of Hazara," Malik Mohammad Farooq, PPP's divisional president in Hazara, told reporters here.

He said the party's central chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, had directed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter to ensure women's representation in all tiers of the organisation.

"We have inducted Naila Shahzad from Haripur as the senior vice-president in our divisional body, along with Waheed Afzal Golra from Mansehra and Syed Jafar Hussain Shah from Abbottabad in consultation with the party's provincial president and general secretary," Mr Farooq said.

He added that, in the first phase, the district and tehsil bodies of Haripur, Mansehra and Abbottabad would be reorganised to accommodate women workers in key positions.

"Women constitute over 50 per cent of the population, and excluding them from leadership roles would mean depriving both the country and the party of their potential to bring positive social change," he said.

Mr Farooq further stated that in the second phase, the district and tehsil bodies in Torghar, Battagram, Upper Kohistan, Lower Kohistan and Kolai-Palas would also be made inclusive of women's participation.

"We have revised our political strategy for the upcoming general elections, and this structural reorganisation reflects our commitment to inclusivity and empowerment of women within the party," he added.

The PPP's divisional president said that workers were actively pursuing chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's motive in every nook and corner, and now women activists and workers would help them in disseminating that message of socioeconomic change.

SHOT DEAD: A woman allegedly shot dead her husband, who had recently returned from Saudi Arabia on leave, over a domestic dispute here on Sunday.

"We have arrested the accused woman who opened fire on her husband following a quarrel," Sub-Inspector Fayyaz Khan, the investigation officer in the case, told reporters.

The man was taken to King Abdullah Teaching Hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead. After medico-legal formalities, the body was handed over to the family.

According to the FIR lodged by the victim's son, Mohammad Hassan, his father, Abdul Rasheed, had been employed in Saudi Arabia and returned home last week to spend time with his family.

"My parents often argued and accused each other of various things, but we used to resolve the matter amicably," the complainant said, adding the family woke up to gunshots and found his father lying in a pool of blood.

He alleged that his mother, Nisreen Bibi, had shot his father to avenge a previous argument.

Police registered a case under Section 302 of the Pakistan Penal Code and arrested the suspect.

Cop martyred in Tank; terrorist killed in Hangu

Dawn Report

DERA ISMAIL KHAN/KOHAT: A police head constable was martyred when unidentified assailants opened fire at him in Mohammad Akbar village in the jurisdiction of Gul Imam police station of Tank district on Sunday, an official said.

He said that head constable Shah Nawaz was on leave and at home when assailants opened fire. He died on the spot. Rescue 1122 shifted the body to the District Headquarters Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Police and security forces rushed to the scene and launched a search operation in the area. An investigation is underway.

Meanwhile, a terrorist was killed during a gun battle with the police in Bangash Chappar area of Hangu district on Saturday night. His injured accomplices managed to escape into the rugged mountains taking advantage of darkness, district police officer Khan Zeb Momand said.

He added that the terrorist was killed during a search and strike operation, which was underway in the area under the supervision of DSP Amjid Khan and SHO city Mehmood Khan.

The Hangu DPO said that the police also recovered a Kalashnikov, hand grenades and explosives from possession of the killed terrorist.

He vowed that terrorists would be chased wherever they were unless eliminated.

"The martyrdom of each security official and their single drop of blood would be avenged."

Afghan national among four held for forgery

PESHAWAR: The Federal Investigation Agency on Sunday arrested four persons, including an Afghan national, for attempting to obtain Pakistani citizenship for the foreigner, officials said.

They said that the accused persons were arrested from the regional office of the National Database and Registration Authority in the provincial capital.

A statement issued by the FIA's Anti-Corruption Circle said that the accused, including Siddiqullah, Samiullah, Fayaz Khan and Younas Khan, were arrested for allegedly involved in illegally obtaining Pakistani citizenship for Siddiqullah.

It said that Siddiqullah was an Afghan national and had tried to obtain Pakistani citizenship through forged documents, adding that Samiullah pretended to be his father at the Nadra office.

The statement said that the other accused persons, Fayaz Khan and Younas Khan, appeared at the Nadra office as witnesses and verifiers, and had illegally confirmed Siddiqullah's Pakistani citizenship by providing fake certificates.

The statement said that the accused persons were arrested and charged under relevant sections of the law, adding that an investigation was underway. — Bureau Report

Snap checking resumes in Peshawar after five years

PESHAWAR: In response to a recent surge in terrorist attacks across southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, snap checking operations have resumed in Peshawar after a gap of five years. Police, security forces and the City Patrol Force have established joint checkpoints in areas, including Pishtakhara and Ring Road, to enhance security measures.

According to police officials on Sunday, snipers have been deployed at key checkposts located in the suburban areas of Badaber, Mattani, Hassankhel, Warsak, Regi, Armar and those bordering the tribal district of Khyber. In the next phase, Peshawar police will also be equipped with thermal technology to strengthen surveillance at sensitive locations.

Officials stated that the initiative aims at monitoring criminal movement, ensuring public safety and maintaining law and order in coordination with the Pakistan Army. Security personnel are actively monitoring major highways, as well as entry and exit routes of the city.

The decision follows a wave of recent attacks on police and law enforcement agencies in tribal and southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Authorities have confirmed that daily snap checking will now be conducted at major entry and exit points across Peshawar to counter potential threats and improve overall security. — APP

Internet provider challenges tax on cable TV services

Petitioner terms amendments in relevant law discriminatory, unconstitutional

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: A leading internet and TV service provider has moved Peshawar High Court against levy of 19.5 per cent sales tax on internet-based cable TV services by amending Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sales Tax on Services Act, 2022.

The company M/S Cyber Internet Services operating under the brand name StormFiber has filed a petition, challenging the amendments made in KP Sales Tax on Services Act, 2022, through KP Finance Act, 2025, stating that the same was unconstitutional and unfair.

The petition, filed through Advocate Nouman Muhib Kakakhel, includes as respondents KP government through its chief secretary, KP Revenue Authority (KPRA) through its director general and secretaries of law and finance departments.

The petitioner said that it was a leading fibre to home (FTTH) internet and television service provider, operating since 1996, holding multiple licences from Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra) including for Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) and traditional cable services.

The petitioner requested the court to declare the impugned amendment as unconstitutional and void to the extent it levied 19.5 per cent sales tax on cable TV services provided by telecommunication service providers. The petitioner stated that there were two kinds of TV services in Pakistan -- Cable TV Distribution Service (CATV) and Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) -- which were regulated by Pemra.

It said that CATV referred to traditional television services, which transmitted content via cable infrastructure, whereas IPTV delivered content over internet, offering on demand viewing and interactive features.

The petitioner claimed that with the support of another company it provided CATV through a license duly issued by Pemra.

It stated that initially under KP Sales Tax on Services Act (STSA) two per cent sales tax was imposed on CATV, whereas 19.5 per cent was levied on internet-based TV services.

The petitioner contended that amendments were made in STSA through KP Finance Act, 2025, through which the tax ambit was drastically widened and an enhanced and discriminatory rate of 19.5 per cent was imposed upon the petitioner company and other similarly placed cable TV providers, who also provided other telecommunication services.

In contrast to that, the petitioner stated, the TV cable operators, who happened to have the same licence as that of the petitioner but did not provide other telecommunication services, were levied with five per cent of the tax after the impugned amendment.

The petitioner contended that the amendment that increased the rate of sales tax on Cable TV Distribution Services (CATV) provided by telecommunication service providers to 19.5 per cent, while keeping the same service at only five per cent for traditional cable operators holding identical Pemra licences was discriminatory.

It contended that the new tax regime violated constitutional guarantees of equality and fairness, particularly under Articles 4, 8, 18, 25, and 77 of the Constitution of Pakistan.

It said that the amendment was "discriminatory, unreasonable, and ultra vires" to KP STSA, which based taxation on the nature of the service rather than the identity of the service provider.

"The impugned amendment shifts the taxation basis from the service provided to the identity of the service provider, which is contrary to the legislative intent of the parent Act," the petitioner maintained.

The company contended that the tax hike unfairly penalised technologically advanced providers offering integrated services like internet, TV and telephony, commonly known as "Triple Play Services."

Advocate Nouman Muhib Kakakhel submitted that such an arbitrary classification discourages innovation and modernisation in the digital economy, effectively creating a dual taxation regime for identical services. He said that that taxation policy couldn't be used to penalise technological evolution, as doing so infringed upon the freedom of trade and business guaranteed under Article 18 of the Constitution.